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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST
MAGAZINE FOR
CURIOS KIDS



GOLD STARS

US athletes shine at
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This week's big news



Muhammad Yunus (center)

Bangladesh fact file



- Population: 168 million
- Official language: Bengali
- Size: 56,977 square miles
- Religion: 91% Muslim, some Hindu, Buddhist, Christian
- Geography: Low-lying river delta crossed by the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers, with hills and forests as well
- Bordering countries: India and Myanmar

Transfer of power in Bangladesh

On August 8, a new leader took over the South Asian nation of Bangladesh after weeks of political turmoil. The interim (temporary) government was installed after protests caused the former leader to resign and flee the country.

What happened?

In July, students in Bangladesh began protesting against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Her government pushed back, and tensions grew until the protests became violent, leading to 10,000 arrests and the deaths of more than 400 protesters and police officers. On August 2, demonstrators stormed the prime minister's residence. Hasina escaped and left the country. Protesters called for Muhammad Yunus, an economist, to be the country's new leader. Yunus flew back to Bangladesh from Paris, France—where he was attending the Summer Olympics—to be sworn in. At a news conference, he asked the people of Bangladesh to remain calm and called for an end to violence.



What were the protests about?

Hasina, age 76, served as prime minister from 1996 to 2001, then took office again in 2009. She was re-elected for a fourth straight term in January.

As prime minister, she turned a democracy (when people choose their leaders) into a dictatorship (when a leader has total power). Hasina has been accused of human rights abuses, unfair elections, and using violence against her opponents. The country's economy has suffered, leading to a rise in the cost of goods and high unemployment levels, particularly among young people. The lack of jobs triggered the protests in July. Students said they were not able to get desirable jobs with the government because Hasina was unfairly filling them with her allies. In response, Hasina cut off the internet, ordered people indoors at night, and used the police and military to stop the demonstrators.

The protests grew as people began fighting against her broader use of power to control the nation.

Who is Muhammad Yunus?

Yunus, age 84, was born in 1950 in Chittagong, in southeastern Bangladesh. He earned a PhD (highest degree) in economics at

Vanderbilt University in Tennessee and founded Grameen Bank to provide loans to help very poor people start a business or pay for housing. The bank has loaned billions of dollars and lifted many people out of poverty, and Yunus's approach has been adopted around the

world. In 2006, he won the Nobel Peace Prize, one of the world's most prestigious awards, for these efforts. Political experts said Hasina and other powerful people did not like Yunus's fame and harassed him, filing more than 100 court cases that were false and politically motivated. Yunus has denied any wrongdoing.

Who else is in the new government?

Yunus said young people are the key to rebuilding the country, and the 13 advisers who were sworn in alongside him included two leaders of the student protest movement that ended Hasina's leadership. Other cabinet members include the former head of Bangladesh Bank, a former election commissioner, human rights activists, a women's rights activist, and a top official of Grameen Bank.

What will happen next?

Transitional governments in Bangladesh typically last 90 days, until an election is held. When *The Week Junior* went to press, however, it wasn't clear whether elections could happen while the country recovers from the turmoil. Yunus said he does not wish to lead for the long term and sees his task as restoring order and democracy. "This is our beautiful country with lots of exciting possibilities," he said. "We must protect and make it a wonderful country for us and for our future generations."

This week's big news



China finds water on the Moon

Chinese scientists found water in soil samples brought back from the Moon by its Chang'e-5 lunar probe. Water has been found on the Moon before, but this is the first time it was discovered in the same form as the water we use on Earth. The sample also came from a part of the Moon where scientists did not expect to find any water at all.

The Chang'e-5 probe was launched by the China National Space Administration (CNSA) in November 2020. The robotic spacecraft explored the Moon for about a month before returning to Earth carrying four pounds of lunar rocks and soil.

Since 2018, scientists have confirmed that there is water on the Moon in two other forms—as ice and as a chemical compound (mix) that could be transformed into water. And last year, China discovered water trapped in glass beads on the Moon's surface. The newest findings could lead to a water source for future missions to the lunar surface. The CNSA plans to send a crewed mission to the Moon and also set up a research station there by 2030.

The Moon



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

PURPLE POWER
An Iowa man set a record for the world's heaviest eggplant, which weighed 8 pounds, 5.3 ounces and measured 2 feet, 3.9 inches around. Dave Bennett, who grows fruits and vegetables as a hobby, said he doesn't remember ever eating eggplant before.



Dave Bennett

COLORFUL CREATURES

An orange lobster named Peaches laid eggs and now has 100 babies, some of which have her extremely rare coloring. Peaches lives in a marine science center at the University of New England, in Maine, which said the odds of finding a "beautiful creature" like her are 1 in 30 million.



The baby lobsters

GIVING BACK(PACKS)

Reed Marcum, age 18, raised money to give away more than 6,000 backpacks filled with school supplies to kids in Oklahoma and nearby states. "It is so fulfilling to know we are playing a small part in getting kids excited about their education," he said. Marcum has given away 33,000 book bags in nine years.



The giveaway



The closing ceremony was a celebration of the 2024 Summer Games.

WINNING WOMEN

At this year's Games, US women earned more medals than entire teams from several countries, including Australia, Japan, and France.

Paris Olympics come to a close

The 2024 Summer Olympics ended on August 11 with a closing ceremony at the Stade de France in Paris. More than 10,000 athletes from 205 countries marched in the Parade of Nations as 70,000 spectators in the stadium and millions more at home enjoyed a light show and fireworks.

The ceremony's dramatic moments included a floating figure clad in gold armor and an artist playing piano while suspended in mid-air. Olympic rings were raised over the stage amid live musical performances by the French band Phoenix, Belgian singer Angèle, and other artists. A special tribute was paid to the Games' 45,000 volunteers.

Following tradition, the Olympic flag was handed off to the leader of the next host city—in this case, Karen Bass, the mayor of Los Angeles,

California, where the 2028 Summer Games will take place. The ceremony took an American turn as actor Tom Cruise dropped onto the stage, took the flag, and rode off on a motorcycle. Billie Eilish and other musicians appeared by video. At the end, French swimmer Léon Marchand, who won five medals this year, arrived with the Olympic flame. It was put out, marking the end of the Games.

Team USA left Paris with 126 medals, the most of any country, and tied with China for the most gold medals at 40 each. The count does not include a bronze medal awarded to US gymnast Jordan Chiles, which was taken away by Olympic officials after a dispute and given to a competitor from Romania who had originally finished fourth. The US is appealing that decision.



National news



DID YOU KNOW?

Since the 1990s, the Pew Research Center has analyzed data to discover the issues, attitudes, and trends shaping the world.

The number of Asians living in the US is projected to keep growing.

Asian American history



Earlier this year, Wisconsin became the most recent US state to require its public schools to teach Asian American history. Illinois was the first state to pass such a law in 2021, and nine other states, including Connecticut, Florida, Rhode Island, and New Jersey, also require the subject to be taught.

Increase in Asian American population

Asian Americans are the fastest-growing ethnic group in the US, according to a new report from the Pew Research Center, a nonprofit organization that focuses on facts and statistics. About 24 million Asians live in the US today, which is about 7% of the nation's population.

How were these numbers determined?

The Pew report was based on nearly 20 years of data gathered by the US Census Bureau, which studies the US population. Pew also surveyed more than 7,000 Asian Americans, asking about their identities, ancestral homelands, and other topics.

Who are Asian Americans?

Asian Americans come from more than 20 countries across East and Southeast Asia

and the Indian subcontinent, which includes countries such as India and Bangladesh. But 77% trace their roots to six nations: China, India, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, and Vietnam. Asian Americans portray their identities in numerous ways, the report found. About 25% name their country of origin ("Chinese" or "Vietnamese"), while another 25% combine their ethnicity with the word "American," as in "Vietnamese American." Another 16% call themselves "Asian American." A small number (6%) use a regional description to describe their origin, such as "South Asian."

What did the data show?

The Asian population in the US grew by 81% in the past two decades, from 10.5 million in 2000

to a record-high 18.9 million in 2019. (Hispanics experienced the second-fastest population growth in the US, at 70.) The state with the largest number of Asian Americans—more than 7 million—is California. The states with the next highest populations are New York and Texas, with about 2 million each. The number of Asians living in the US is projected to increase to about 35.8 million by 2060.

What else was found?

About 78% of Asian Americans said they have a very or somewhat favorable view of the US. Of the Asian Americans who identify with a religion, 34% said they are Christian, 11% are Buddhist, 11% are Hindu, and 6% are Muslim. About 32% said they are not affiliated with a religion.

WORD OF THE WEEK

SPA

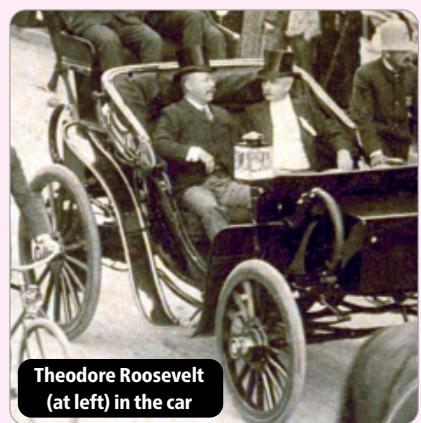
The word "spa" comes from the name of a small town in eastern Belgium, which has been celebrated since the Middle Ages for the healing properties of its natural springs. The name was later given to any place or resort with a mineral spring or to one that offers treatments aimed at improving health and well-being.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

August 22, 1902

US President rides in an automobile
On August 22, 1902, Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th US President (1901–1909), became the first President to publicly ride in an automobile. He toured the city of Hartford, Connecticut, in an electric car, which had two 400-pound batteries and could reach a top speed of 13 miles per hour. In 1905, he made transportation history again when he became the first US President to ride in a submarine.



Theodore Roosevelt (at left) in the car



The candidates

Harris and Trump will debate

Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic Party's nominee for US President, and former President Donald Trump, the Republican Party's nominee, have agreed to debate each other on September 10. The live televised event will be hosted by ABC News and moderated by journalists Linsey Davis and David Muir. Harris and Trump said they look forward to the debate and are open to future debates before the election on November 5.



The winners celebrate.

Little League softball champions

On August 11, the Little League Softball World Series concluded with the North Carolina Region team defeating the Mid-Atlantic Region team, 1–0. It was the 50th anniversary of the weeklong event, which featured eight US teams and four international teams playing in Greenville, North Carolina. The North Carolina team didn't give up a single run during the series.



Sculptures to arrive in New York

An outdoor art installation titled *The Great Elephant Migration*, which consists of 100 life-size elephant sculptures (above), will be on display in a New York City neighborhood starting on September 6. The exhibit's goal is to promote awareness of animal conservation. Each sculpture is made from lantana camara, a fast-growing invasive weed that can push animals out of their habitats.



Yun Chuan at the San Diego Zoo

WOW!
More than 12,000 rare and endangered animals, which represent more than 680 species and subspecies, live at the San Diego Zoo.

Giant pandas welcomed in San Diego

On August 8, the San Diego Zoo in California held a welcome ceremony for the first pandas to come to the US in more than 20 years. It was the first public appearance for Yun Chuan, a 5-year-old male, and Xin Bao, a 4-year-old female. China has loaned the two pandas to the zoo as part of a conservation effort to protect the species, which are considered vulnerable to extinction.

The welcome ceremony was attended by American and Chinese leaders, including California Governor Gavin Newsom, who declared August 8 to be California Panda Day. Visitors lined up to view the two pandas in their new home, called Panda Ridge Habitat. It is four times larger than the enclosure the San Diego Zoo had for its previous pandas. The event also featured performances, the unveiling of artwork dedicated to the pandas, and speeches on the importance of international conservation and cooperation.



Yun Chuan and Xin Bao traveled by plane from the Wolong Shenshuping Panda Base in southwestern China to the US in June. Since then, zookeepers have carefully monitored their adjustment and provided them with a diet rich in bamboo and special treats like "panda bread," a traditional Chinese bun. Zoo staff said Yun Chuan is recognizable by his distinctive black patches, while Xin Bao displays a playful and curious nature.

The only natural habitat for giant pandas is China, which has fewer than 1,900 living in the wild. Since the 1940s, China has loaned pandas to more than 20 countries, including the US, as part of a program often called "panda diplomacy."

There are currently four other giant pandas in the US. They live at Zoo Atlanta in Georgia and are set to return to China in the fall. Two more pandas are expected to arrive at the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, DC, later this year.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Sneaky seagull steals bags of chips from convenience store" UPI





Around the world



Pompeii

United Kingdom Rallies against racism

Thousands of people gathered across the UK on August 7 and 10 to protest against racism. The rallies were held in response to anti-immigration riots, which began after a violent attack in England on July 29 was falsely blamed on an immigrant. Police arrested 779 rioters, and a group organized peaceful protests to show support for immigrants.



Protesters in London

Italy Tourist in trouble for damaging wall

On August 7, a British tourist was caught carving his family's initials into a wall in Pompeii, an ancient city whose buildings were preserved in volcanic ash after Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 CE. The 37-year-old man said he wanted to leave a sign of his family's visit on the 2,000-year-old Roman ruins. Italy increased its penalties for damaging historic sites earlier this year, so he now faces a fine of up to \$65,000.



The parade

Mexico Boat procession honors a saint

Followers of the Catholic faith attended a floating procession in honor of Saint Jude Thaddeus on Mexico City's famous Xochimilco canals on August 11. Saint Jude is the patron saint of hope and impossible causes. Worshippers in decorated boats traveled behind a boat carrying a piece of bone believed to have belonged to the saint, which was brought from Rome to Mexico for a one-month visit.



Pools have to stay empty.

Spain Water shortage leads to pool ban

Several towns in Spain have introduced bans on filling up swimming pools because of a severe drought (long period without rain). In some areas, it hasn't rained for more than eight months. Residents have also been told not to wash vehicles or water their gardens, and local councils have stopped watering public parks and filling public pools.

Greece Fire near capital

People were forced to leave their homes in several neighborhoods on August 11–13 after a wildfire broke out near Athens, Greece's capital city. Strong winds caused the wildfire to spread very quickly across thousands of acres of forest, making it difficult for firefighters to put out the flames. Police helped people evacuate from the area, and more than 600 firefighters and 180 fire engines were called to battle the fire.



The fire

Around the world



Paul Kagame

Kigali, Rwanda President sworn in

On August 11, Paul Kagame was officially sworn in for a fourth term as president of Rwanda. Kagame has led the country since 1994 and reportedly won more than 99% of the vote in the election last month. Only two other candidates were allowed to run against him, and critics say the country's elections are not conducted fairly.



Damage in Kursk

Kursk, Russia Ukraine launches surprise attacks

Ukraine's military entered Russia on August 6, carrying out its largest attack since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. As Ukraine took control of more than 300 square miles, Russian officials evacuated about 121,000 residents from the Kursk and Belgorod regions. Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed to "kick the enemy out." Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russia "must be forced to make peace."



MFP's former leader (center)

Bangkok, Thailand Political party stopped

On August 7, a court ordered the Move Forward Party (MFP) to be dissolved, meaning the political party can no longer operate. MFP won a national election in 2023 but was blocked from forming a government because it planned to change a law that bans people from criticizing the monarchy (royal leadership). The court said MFP was trying to overthrow the monarchy and banned several MFP members from politics for 10 years.



Sydney, Australia Bluey coin theft

Australian police have charged a man with stealing more than \$393,000 worth of special collectible coins based on *Bluey*, a popular children's TV show. The coins were made by the Royal Australian Mint and featured images of characters from the show. More than 60,000 of the coins were stolen from a truck at a warehouse in Sydney, where the man was an employee. So far, 1,000 have been found. The rest of them may have been sold.



Göbekli Tepe archaeological site, Turkey World's oldest calendar found

Scientists from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, believe they have discovered the world's first calendar. A pillar in a temple-like structure, which is thought to be 12,000 years old, features carvings of 365 V-shaped symbols that appear to represent each day of the year. A bird-like creature with a V around its neck likely marks the longest day of the year.



The big debate

Should students pick their seats in class?

Some people are all for freedom to choose, but others think assigned seats are best.

What you need to know

- It's usually up to teachers to decide how seating arrangements work in their classrooms.
- Some teachers who assign seats put students in alphabetical order. Others organize them randomly or by group.
- Some teachers have students sit in the same seats all semester or school year. Others switch up the seating at different points during the year.
- A study found that elementary school students were more likely to become friends with kids who sat nearby.

The new school year is full of excitement and questions. Will you be in the same class as your old friends? Who will your new friends be? What's your teacher like? Where will you sit? When it comes to seating, different teachers handle it differently. Some let students sit where they like, while others have a seating chart mapped out on the first day. You might end up next to your best friend or a new student who just joined the school. Many students want the freedom to pick their own seats, but plenty of people say the teacher knows best and students should keep an open mind. What do you think? Should students pick their seats in class?



WOW!

In 2022, more than 46 million public school students were enrolled in grades K through 12 in the US.

Yes—kids can handle the decision

Letting students choose their own seats teaches them to be responsible and independent and shows them that teachers trust them to make their own decisions. Students, especially kids who are quiet or introverted, can feel more relaxed in class when they're sitting next to people they're comfortable with. And when students are more relaxed, they're better able to learn. Besides, when students go out in the real world, no one is going to tell them where to sit. Letting them choose their seats in class prepares them for the future and other bigger decisions they have to make as they grow up.

No—teachers know best

Students have recess and lunch to hang out with their friends. They don't need to also do it in class, where it can be distracting for them or others. Sitting with people they don't know well helps students step out of their comfort zone, and they may even make new friends. Besides, it can be stressful to pick a seat. Students might feel peer pressure to sit with friends when they would rather be near the teacher or in another spot in the classroom that helps them focus on learning. And if a student is new to the school, they might not know anyone yet, so where should they sit? A teacher can pick the right seat for each person.

YES Three reasons why students should pick their seats in class

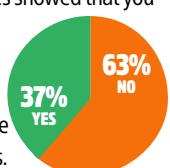
- Students who pick their own seats feel trusted by teachers and gain a sense of independence and responsibility.
- Sitting next to someone they know can help kids feel comfortable, which in turn helps them learn.
- Learning to make decisions at a young age prepares students for the real world.

NO Three reasons why students should not pick their seats in class

- Class time is for learning, not socializing. Sitting with a friend can be distracting.
- Sitting with people they don't know pushes students out of their comfort zone and helps them make new friends.
- Assigned seats let teachers address the needs of each student and ensure that everyone gets a fair seat.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

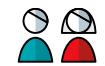
Last week, we asked you if the condiment craze has gone too far. Your votes showed that you like tasty toppings: 63% of you said no, while 37% said yes.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think students should pick their seats in class or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Excelling in his sport

Team USA's Stephen Nedoroscik is helping to redefine men's gymnastics.

Olympic gymnast Stephen Nedoroscik of Team USA has become a sensation, igniting interest in men's gymnastics nationwide with his standout performances on the pommel horse at the Paris Olympics. He first helped the US men's team secure a bronze medal, its first medal in 16 years, and then won an individual Olympic bronze medal.

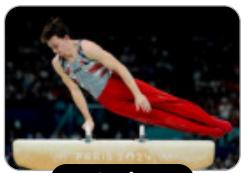
Nedoroscik, age 25, of Sterling, Massachusetts, began gymnastics early. He initially competed in many disciplines before focusing only on the pommel horse, where his exceptional skill set him apart in the competitive world of gymnastics. He has strabismus, a vision impairment caused by crossed eyes, and wears glasses regularly, but he takes them off to compete.

In college, as a member of the men's gymnastics team at Penn State University,

he earned four All-America honors and two national titles on the pommel horse. In 2021, he became the first US gymnast to win a gold medal on the pommel horse at a World Championship, securing his place in this year's Olympics.

While waiting for his turn to compete, he likes to solve Rubik's Cubes—he completed one in 10 seconds before he won bronze in the team event. During the Olympics, fans compared him to Superman's alter ego Clark Kent, who takes off his glasses and becomes a hero. Videos on social media showcasing his style and skills have gone viral.

Meanwhile, gyms across the US are reporting enrollment increases. Reflecting on his Olympic journey, Nedoroscik said, "I'm just a quirky guy, and I'm glad that people are enjoying my competition."



On the pommel horse



DID YOU KNOW?
The pommel horse, which dates back to ancient Rome, was featured in the first modern Olympics in 1896.

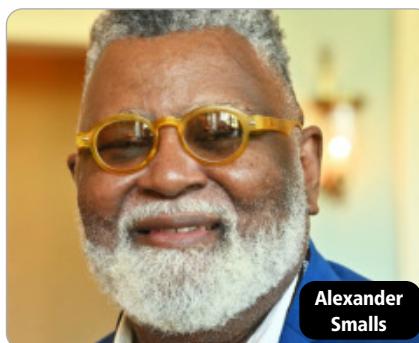
Stephen Nedoroscik

A young chess star

Bodhana Sivanandan, age 9, is a British chess player set to make history as the youngest player to represent England internationally in any sport. This September, she will compete with the England Women's Team at the Chess Olympiad, a top global chess event in Hungary. Bodhana began playing the game at age 5. In 2023, at age 8, she became the first world youth chess champion from England in 25 years. She shared this advice for beginners in an interview with the BBC: "If you lose a game, you should try to learn from it."



Bodhana Sivanandan



Alexander Smalls

Chef writes kids' book

Award-winning chef Alexander Smalls will release his first children's book, *When Alexander Graced the Table*, in January 2025. The illustrated book depicts young Alexander learning to prepare a dish for his family. Smalls, known for his innovative Southern cuisine and the cookbook *Meals, Music, and Muses*, said the new book is a tribute to his parents, his South Carolina childhood, and his Gullah Geechee heritage (descendants of African slaves in the southeastern US). He hopes readers will see how love shaped his upbringing and enjoy the lemon pie recipe featured inside.

OVERHEARD



“I never said I’m going to try this. I said I’m going to do this.”

Stage and screen star Bette Midler, age 78, on her determination at the start of her more than 50-year career in show business



Animals and the environment

HEAVY AND HUNGRY
Hippos weigh up to 4.5 tons and can eat as much as 150 pounds of grass in a single night.



Hippos running

Hippopotamus fact file

Common hippos are from Africa. Their oily red sweat acts as a sunscreen when it's very hot, but they spend most of their days in cool rivers and lakes. A hippo's eyes, nose, and ears are on top of its head so it can still see, hear, and breathe while most of its body is underwater.

A hippo underwater



Hippos take off when they run

Many animals—including humans—end up airborne (with their feet totally off the ground) for short periods of time when they move quickly. In larger animals, this is less common. Elephants, for example, never completely leave the ground. However, a new study has found that the famously heavy hippopotamus "takes flight" when it runs.

Despite their size, some hippos have been recorded reaching speeds of nearly 20 miles per hour. But until now, no studies had shown whether they become airborne. Researcher Emily Pringle went to Flamingo Land Resort, a zoo and theme park in the UK. She collected video



Elephants don't leave the ground.

footage of hippos there, recording them moving around in their enclosure during the day. The study also looked at wild hippos in videos online. In total, the researchers looked at the movements of 32 hippos.

When slowed down, the videos revealed that sprinting hippos lift all four of their feet off the ground at once, staying in the air for about 0.3 seconds at a time. The fastest-moving hippos become airborne for as much as 15% of their run.

The team also found that hippos move similarly through water, "trotting" along the bottom of a river. Professor John Hutchinson, who led the research, said this was the first study to

focus entirely on how hippos walk and run. He said, "I've struggled to get any work done on hippos before. They're incredibly dangerous, they tend to be most active at night, and they spend a lot of their time in the water." He added that he and Pringle were "pleasantly surprised" by the results. Hutchinson told *The Guardian* newspaper that he is now interested in studying baby hippos because their running style may be different.

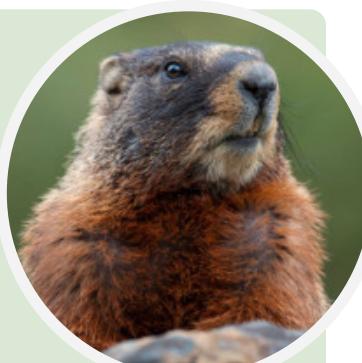
Now that experts know more about how hippos move, they can design better enclosures for hippos in captivity and can more easily monitor whether the animals are suffering from any physical problems. Kieran Holliday from Flamingo Land Resort said, "Understanding more about the species we work with will only help us to improve the care we can give them in the future."



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe, on the border of California and Nevada, is famous for its rich blue color. Nestled between two mountain ranges, Tahoe is 22 miles long and 1,645 feet deep, which makes it the largest alpine lake (a lake at a high altitude) in North America. Popular activities include swimming, fishing, and kayaking. The surrounding marshes filter the rain, which keeps the water crystal clear for whitefish, salmon, trout, and frogs. Visitors hiking the forest trails around the lake can look out for black bears, coyotes, and marmots.



A marmot



COZY CAVERNS

Some frogs dig burrows deep underground and stay warm inside them all winter.



Frogs warming up in a brick

Spas designed for sick frogs

A study in Australia has shown that simple frog shelters might help the animals fight off a disease called chytrid, which has contributed to the extinction of at least 90 amphibian species in the past 50 years.

Amphibians can live in water and in moist environments on land. The fungus that causes chytrid thrives in cool, damp places. It can infect the animals by getting into their skin, but it struggles to survive in temperatures above 86° F.

Scientists designed inexpensive shelters where frogs can warm up, which helps them

fight the infection. Dark colors absorb heat, so bricks are painted black and placed in small plastic greenhouses. Frogs can hop in and out and nestle inside holes in the bricks. The bricks heat up the shelter, raising the frogs' body temperature.

Lead researcher Anthony Waddle calls these shelters "spas" for frogs. "Sick frogs would go, get better, and come out not only healthier but better able to fight chytrid," he said. The team wants the Australian public to build frog spas in their yards, which they hope will support endangered species.

Animal of the Week

Echidna



San Diego Zoo Safari Park in California celebrated World Echidna Day on July 19 with special talks about the egg-laying mammals. Echidnas live in Australia and New Guinea and are also known as "spiny anteaters."

- **LIFE SPAN:** Up to 58 years in zoos, 45 in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Forests, woodlands, and grasslands
- **SIZE:** 14 to 30 inches long, 5.5 to 22 pounds
- **DIET:** Mostly termites, ants, and worms
- **FUN FACT:** Echidnas dig their strong feet into the ground so predators can't get to their soft bellies.



Good week / Bad week



Lost species

An expedition to Madagascar's Makira Natural Park found 21 animals that scientists hadn't seen in at least 10 years, including a 10-inch millipede, two flower beetles, three fish species, and a jumping spider that was last recorded in 1900.

Key Largo tree cactus

Rising sea levels brought salty ocean water into freshwater habitats, causing the Key Largo tree cactus to go extinct in the state of Florida. The cactus also grows on some Caribbean islands, and experts have saved seeds and stems to replant.



"Can dolphins communicate with whales?"

Lillian, 10, Maryland

Marco Wendt

Wildlife ambassador,
San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

Whales and dolphins have been seen playing and hunting together. They hear each other's sounds, but we are unsure if they understand each other the way they understand their own kind. Remember, even if animals don't speak the same language, they can communicate in other ways.



Dolphins

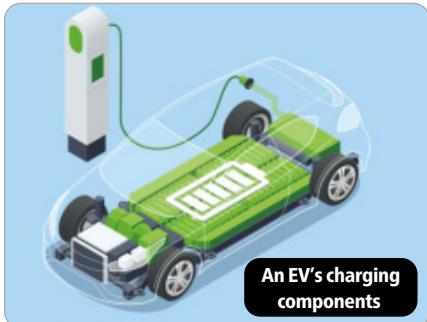
Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the San Diego Zoo at sandiegozoo.org.



Modern cars charge

Before there were gas automobiles, there were electric vehicles.

Many people think of electric cars as being a relatively recent invention. But their history actually dates back to the 1800s.



An EV's charging components

Gas cars vs. electric cars

Most cars on the road today are powered with gasoline in an internal combustion engine. Burning gasoline produces substances that are harmful to the environment, however. One is carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Electric vehicles (EVs), which produce fewer greenhouse gases, have emerged as an alternative in recent years. One type of EV is an all-electric or battery electric vehicle that uses a battery pack—which can be charged through a wall outlet or other special equipment—to power an electric motor. Another type is a hybrid car. These run on a combination of electric motors and batteries with internal combustion engines that use fuel.

How EVs got their start

In the 1830s, Scottish inventor Robert Anderson developed an electric "horseless carriage." William Morrison, a chemist in Iowa, created an electric car in the 1880s that could go 20 miles per hour. By the early 1900s, electric cars were popular. They were used mostly in cities because their batteries did not hold much charge and the vehicles couldn't travel far. In 1908, Henry Ford introduced the Model T, a gas-powered car that was more affordable and could travel longer distances. The discovery of oil in Texas at that time made gas cars even more practical, and electric cars began to disappear.



An electric car in 1902



FORWARD THINKING

New York City had more than 100 electric taxi cabs in 1899.

HOP ON!

States including New York and Michigan have started using electric buses for public transportation.

More ways to travel electric

Aircraft

Small electric planes have taken to the skies. Electric air taxis, like the Volocopter (right), may soon fly passengers around major cities.



Boats

Several companies make electric boats for recreation. Candela makes a "flying" electric boat (right) that rises above water. The state of Washington plans to convert its passenger ferries to hybrid by 2040.





toward the future



The cars make a comeback

A low supply of oil and gasoline in the 1970s led to high gas prices and long lines at gas stations. This sparked a renewed interest in electric cars. Congress passed a law in 1976 authorizing the Department of Energy to research electric cars. Over the next few decades, people also became more aware of the effects of gasoline cars on the environment. At the same time, electric battery technology was improving. General Motors released an electric car in the 1990s, but it was soon discontinued. A major milestone came in 1997 when Japan released the Toyota Prius, the world's first mass-produced electric hybrid. In 2008, Tesla Motors rolled out the all-electric Tesla Roadster. It could be driven 245 miles on a single charge, which was a significant improvement in the distance electric cars could travel.



A growing trend

Electric car sales have increased in recent years, and most major car companies have electric cars on the market or in development. Today there are more than 40 million electric cars on the road worldwide. Most of them are in China, followed by Europe and the US. The number of public charging stations has also increased, with more than 70,000 charging stations and over 186,000 charging ports in the US, for drivers to charge their vehicles' batteries on the go.

Trains

Japan has electric trains that travel at least 185 miles per hour. Caltrain, a rail service in the San Francisco Bay Area, is testing an electric fleet (right), and California plans to build its first high-speed rail system.



Bikes

Most major bicycle companies make electric bikes, also called e-bikes (right). They typically use a motor to provide extra power to cyclists as they pedal. Some e-bikes are fully electric and operate without pedaling.





WOW!
The oldest known shark teeth come from a 410-million-year-old fossil called *Doliodus problematicus*.

The complete fossil (above left) and a rendering of a *Ptychodus* shark

What a prehistoric shark looked like

Scientists have cracked the mystery of a massive prehistoric shark that lived between 100 and 80 million years ago, thanks to a remarkable fossil discovery. The new study offered insight into *Ptychodus* sharks, including what they looked like, how they lived, and their evolutionary history.

Ptychodus sharks were first identified in 1834. Until recently, however, most of the *Ptychodus* fossils that had been found were teeth, which were round in shape and up to 22 inches long and 18 inches wide. Based on the teeth, scientists believed that the sharks were up to 37 feet long and crushed and ate animals with shells that lived on the ocean floor, like clams. But they knew little else about the creatures.

The latest collection of fossils changed that. They are about 91.85 to 93.9 million years old and were discovered in northeastern Mexico. They included a complete specimen of *Ptychodus* that revealed its full body outline, fins, skeleton, teeth, and preserved muscle. Three other fossils were nearly complete, and two were incomplete.

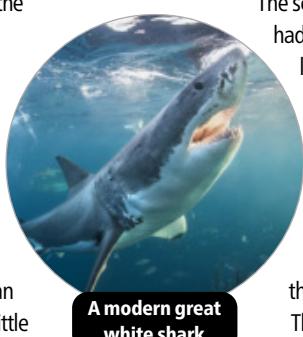
A team of scientists led by Romain Vullo of the University of Rennes, in France, analyzed the

newly found fossils. Based on the overall shape and size, they determined that *Ptychodus* sharks were lamniform sharks. Also known as mackerel sharks, lamniformes belong to a group that includes modern-day great white sharks. Until now, there were no known mackerel sharks with teeth designed to crush shells.

The scientists also found that *Ptychodus* had a streamlined body shape and was likely about 32 feet long. This body type suggests that *Ptychodus* sharks were fast, active swimmers that hunted in open water, as mackerel sharks commonly do. The sharks most likely preyed on sea turtles and ammonites, rather than shelled animals on the seafloor.

Their diet may explain why *Ptychodus* sharks died out about 76 million years ago. If the creatures hunted for food like sea turtles in open water, they would have faced competition from other animals seeking the same prey, like prehistoric marine reptiles.

The results of the study will help scientists "revise" their earlier beliefs about *Ptychodus* and "see what we got right and what we got wrong," study co-author Eduardo Villalobos Segura, from the University of Vienna, in Austria, told CNN.



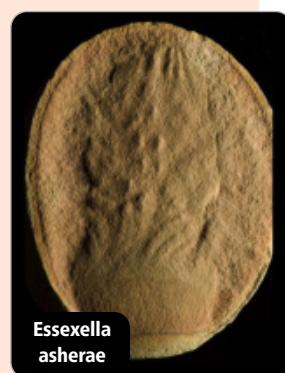
A modern great white shark

An upside-down fossil

A marine fossil was mistakenly identified as a jellyfish for decades until scientists did a simple thing: They turned it upside down. Roy Plotnick of the University of Illinois–Chicago

and his colleagues were puzzled by the fossil, *Essexella asherae*, because it looked unusual for a jellyfish. Jellyfish have a mushroom-like cap and long tentacles. This one had what looked like a skirt and a different kind of cap.

When the team turned the specimen upside down, they realized it was a sea anemone, a relative of the jellyfish. What was thought to be its cap was actually a muscular foot, which it used to root into the ocean floor. "This study demonstrates how a simple shift of a mental image can lead to new ideas and interpretations," Plotnick said.



Essexella asherae



Breakthrough treatment for diabetes

A new treatment to reverse diabetes in humans has shown promising results in initial studies. A team of scientists from New York and California combined two existing drugs that hadn't previously been used together to increase the production of beta cells in mice.

Beta cells are found in an organ called the pancreas and make a chemical called insulin. Insulin does the important job of regulating the amount of glucose (type of sugar) in blood. It does this by allowing cells in the body to absorb the glucose.

In people with diabetes, the quality or quantity of the beta cells decreases. Their bodies either don't produce enough insulin or are not able

to use the insulin properly, leading to high blood sugar levels.

Existing treatments manage diabetes through medicines and injections that boost insulin levels. But when the new treatment was tested on

mice, it helped their bodies make new beta cells again, essentially reversing diabetes. The number of beta cells rose by 700% in three months.

More than 38 million people in the US have diabetes.

These results are exciting, but the team said there is more research to be done before the new treatment can be used in humans. The scientists will continue their work to ensure that it produces similar results in people without causing dangerous side effects and determine how long the benefits last.

DID YOU KNOW?
Ancient Egyptians described a diabetes-like illness in written manuscripts as far back as 1550 BCE.



Spray-on sneaker helps the planet

A Swiss company called On has created an environmentally friendly spray-on shoe that fits like a second skin. Designed for serious runners, the On Cloudboom Strike LS is lightweight, sleek, and supportive.

The upper portion of a traditional running shoe is made of yarn, glue, and other materials that require sewing and gluing. It takes days to make. The Cloudboom Strike LS has a one-piece upper with no laces that's produced in three minutes.

On's process involves a robotic arm that holds the lower section of a sneaker. The arm rotates the shoe base while a machine sprays a plastic filament (thin thread) onto it to form the seamless upper portion. The shoes weigh less than 6 ounces and can be worn immediately.

The brand says its technology creates less waste and reduces carbon emissions (which trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to climate change) by 75%.



An inflatable hot tub for camping



After a long day of hiking or setting up camp, outdoor explorers can enjoy a soothing soak in nature. The Joolca Hottub is inflatable, rugged, and designed to be set up in the mountains or on a beach.

The Joolca Hottub is big enough for two people and

inflates in a few minutes. A separate device, the Hottap, draws water from a natural source, filters and heats it, and fills the tub. That process takes about two hours. When the soaking is done, the tub breaks down quickly and fits into a carrying case.



Olympic photos of the week



Got your back

Swimmers from South Africa and Ireland hug after the women's 100-meter breaststroke final.

Pedal power

Cyclists from Germany push up a hill during the women's team pursuit.



Up and away

Austrian rock climber Jakob Schubert is captured mid-air in the men's boulder and lead semifinal.

GETTY IMAGES (3); REUTERS



Olympic photos of the week



Catching air

Australian Keefer Wilson competes in the final round of the men's park skateboard.



Defying gravity

This photo of Gabriel Medina of Brazil, taken after he set an Olympic record in surfing, has been called one of the most iconic images of the Paris Games.



Making waves

Angèle Hug of France paddles to a silver medal in the women's kayak cross.



Thrilling end to the

The final week of the 2024 Olympics was filled with exciting and historic moments across the venues in Paris, France. The last event was the women's basketball gold medal match, where Team USA beat France, 67–66, and won their eighth consecutive Olympic women's basketball gold. Here is a look at more of the highlights from the end of the Summer Games.

TRACK AND FIELD

Team USA won 34 medals in track and field. They included Quincy Hall's come-from-behind gold in the men's 400-meter race, Tara Davis-Woodhall's gold in women's long jump, and Grant Holloway's gold in the men's 110-meter hurdles. US sprinter Noah Lyles, who had won the men's 100-meter race, hoped to win the 200-meter race but got bronze instead. After the race, he revealed he was sick with Covid-19. The winner was Botswana's Letsile Tebogo, who claimed the first-ever Olympic gold for an African runner in the 200 meters. US sprinter Kenny Bednarek took silver.

Days after winning gold in the women's 100-meter sprint, Team USA's Sha'Carri Richardson anchored the women's 4x100-meter relay and passed several runners to finish in first place. Another Team USA standout was Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, who broke her own world record and won gold in the 400-meter hurdles.



Getsile Tebogo



The US women's 4x100 relay team (from left): Alexis Holmes, Gabby Thomas, Shamier Little, and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone

She also competed in the 4x400-meter women's relay, where she helped the US gain a huge lead and claim its eighth consecutive Olympic gold in the event. They beat the silver medalists, a team from the Netherlands, by more than four seconds. The US also won the men's 4x400-meter relay and set a new Olympic record in the process. One member of the relay team was Rai Benjamin, who had won his first gold in the 400-meter hurdles in Paris, beating the current world-record holder, Karsten Warholm of Norway, who earned the silver.

Among the other stars were Beatrice Chebet of Kenya, who won golds in the women's 5,000- and 10,000-meter races. The bronze medalist in those races, Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands, won the women's marathon, beating Tigray Assefa of Ethiopia in a sprint to the finish. The men's marathon winner

was Tamirat Tola of Ethiopia, who set a new Olympic record in the race. He joined Ethiopia's team as a replacement two weeks before his event and earned them their first Olympic marathon gold since 2000.

BASKETBALL

The US men's and women's teams were made up of stars from the NBA and WNBA. In the semifinals, the men faced tough competition from Serbia, whose team included NBA Most Valuable Player Nikola Jokic. The US won, 95–91, then competed for the gold against France, whose players included NBA rookie Victor

Wembanyama. Team USA won, 98–87, earning its fifth straight men's gold in basketball. US star Steph Curry scored a combined 60 points in his team's last two games. Earlier in the competition, US powerhouse Kevin Durant passed former Olympian and retired WNBA star Lisa Leslie to become the leading basketball scorer in American Olympic history. He also now has four Olympic golds, the most of any male basketball player. Meanwhile, the women's victory gave Team USA's Diana Taurasi a historic sixth Olympic gold, the most of any basketball player ever.



The US men's basketball team



Mallory Swanson



Paris Olympics



US artistic swimmers

different races.

VOLLEYBALL

After a tough five-set semifinal loss to Poland, the world's top team, the US men, bounced back and earned bronze with a win over Italy. The women's gold-medal match was also between the US and Italy. The Americans won the silver while the Italians—who didn't lose a set during their entire Olympics run—took gold.

ARTISTIC SWIMMING

In the event formerly known as synchronized swimming, Team USA ended a 20-year-long medal drought by winning silver. Their routine, which was set to a Michael Jackson song and included an upside-down version of moonwalking, a move he made famous. China won the gold, and Spain took home the bronze.

WATER POLO

The US men's team picked up a bronze medal after beating Hungary in the third-place match. The win secured the team's first medal in the competition since 2008. The US women's team also competed for a bronze medal but lost it to the Netherlands, 11–10.

BREAKING

The sport made its Olympic debut this year, and the first-ever gold medalist was Japan's B-girl (a term for a breaker) Ami, whose full name is Ami Yuasa. The next day, B-boy Phil Wizard (Philip Kim) of Canada won gold in the men's

B-girl Ami



Jennifer Valente

became the first US woman to earn golds in two cycling disciplines. Her earlier victory was in the road race. Valente also earned a second gold medal by successfully defending her Olympic title in the women's omnium, an event with six



Hampton Morris

competition. Team USA's B-boy Victor Montalvo earned a bronze medal. Breaking will not be an Olympic event at the Games in Los Angeles, California, in 2028.

SPORT CLIMBING



Sam Watson

Team USA's Sam Watson won the bronze in speed climbing, an event that features climbers racing to the top of a wall. While he was competing for the bronze, the 18-year-old made history by setting a world record with his run time of 4.74 seconds, which was .01 seconds faster than his previous record. The speed climbing gold went to Indonesia's Veddriq Leonardo. It was his

country's first gold in a sport other than badminton.

WEIGHTLIFTING

Two young Americans made history during the competitions. Olivia Reeves, age 21, who competed for Team USA in the women's 71 kg weight class, won the first US weightlifting gold medal in 24 years after lifting a total of 262 kg (more than 577 pounds) in her three snatches (a move that requires lifting the barbell off the ground and up over the head in one move). On top of that, she set an Olympic record with a 117 kg (nearly 258 pounds)



ON THE COVER

US gold medalists, clockwise from top right: Steph Curry (basketball), Kristen Faulkner (cycling), Katie Ledecky (swimming), Simone Biles (gymnastics), Ryan Crouser (shot put), Lee Kiefer (fencing), Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (track), Cole Hocker (track), Noah Lyles (track)



Arts and entertainment



My Penguin Friend

Film about a special animal

My Penguin Friend is based on a true story about a lost penguin who brings joy to a Brazilian fisherman's life.

In 2011, a Brazilian fisherman named João came across a South American Magellanic penguin covered in oil. He cleaned him and cared for him, and then the penguin—nicknamed DinDim (a Portuguese word for ice pop)—headed back into the wild. For eight years after that, however, DinDim came back to visit João, traveling thousands of miles each time. Their story, which made international headlines in 2016, has been adapted into

the heartwarming film *My Penguin Friend*. It is now playing in theaters.

The film is directed by David Schurmann, who is from Brazil. He told *The Week Junior* he was excited to bring the "simple and beautiful story" to the big screen. Some facts were changed for the film, and Schurmann said he included scenes from DinDim's point of view so audiences could "feel like a penguin, in a way."

My Penguin Friend was filmed in Brazil and Argentina, close to where DinDim and João met. Ten Magellanic



David Schurmann

penguins, all rescues, were brought in to portray DinDim. The animals were guided by a trainer, but Schurmann said, "Sometimes we just had to follow the penguins to whatever they wanted to do." The penguins also worked short days, he said, because "they're morning animals." A real penguin plays DinDim in 90% of his scenes, and animatronics (robot-like puppets) were also used.

Schurmann believes the film will make people feel good. He told *The Week Junior* he would like audiences to come away from it "understanding a little bit more about empathy, the world we live in, and the fact that we're all connected."

3 facts about penguins

Locations

There are 18 types of penguins, and most live in the southern half of the world, mainly in Antarctica (right). Only Galapagos penguins live above the equator.



Special bodies

Penguins cannot fly, but they've evolved to move underwater with incredible speed. They have solid bones, which reduce their buoyancy (ability to float in water). The gentoo penguin (below) is the fastest-swimming bird in the water.



Mini marvels

The little blue penguin (right) is the smallest penguin in the world. Adults grow to be 13 to 15 inches tall and weigh about 3 pounds. They can be found along the coasts of Australia and New Zealand.



Arts and entertainment



WOW!

Every day, the Library of Congress adds 10,000 items to its collection.



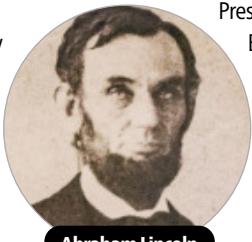
Collecting Memories:
Treasures from the Library of Congress

Treasures at the Library of Congress

The Library of Congress in Washington, DC, has more than 178 million items in its collection, and a new exhibit is highlighting some of those pieces. *Collecting Memories: Treasures from the Library of Congress* has more than 120 items on display now, and different ones will be rotated in. The exhibit will run through the end of 2025.

Founded in 1800, the Library of Congress is the world's largest library and serves as the main research arm of Congress (the branch of US government that makes laws). It has books, recordings, diaries, art, photographs, and artifacts from the US and international sources.

Jennifer Ezell, a program specialist at the Library, told *The Week Junior* that a goal of the new exhibit was "to explore how people are preserving memory" and to look at how memories reflect not only individual lives but also moments in history and societies.



Abraham Lincoln

There is a wide variety of things to see in *Collecting Memories*. One section of the exhibit focuses on how people learn and has clay tablets from between 2200 and 1900 BCE. In other areas, there is a sheet of uncut Topps baseball cards from 1994, as well as a handwritten draft of the Gettysburg Address, an important speech by US President Abraham Lincoln from 1863.

Ezell said one especially popular item is the Blackwell's Kinfolk Family Tree, a large piece of art tracing the roots of an African American family from Virginia, starting in 1789. There are more than 1,500 names on the tree.

Ezell hopes visitors leave thinking about how they remember and collect things in their lives. She said the library also wants to inspire visitors to use the library's resources, which include digitized online collections, "to find more connections to their own personal lives and experiences."



READER RECOMMENDS

Back to the Future Part II (PG) (Netflix and other major platforms)

"This is the second installment of the *Back to the Future* films. It follows Marty McFly and Dr. Emmett Brown as they travel to the future in their DeLorean time machine to fix a problem involving Marty's kids. Things go awry when a character from the first movie, a bully named Biff, finds out about the DeLorean while Doc and Marty are in the future. Biff uses it to go back in time and get rich, creating an alternate timeline. Marty and Doc have to find when Biff time-traveled and stop him. I'd recommend it to anyone who enjoys sci-fi or action movies." Steven, 13, Texas

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Dance Moms: A New Era

(Hulu)

The popular 2010s reality series *Dance Moms* went behind the scenes at a dance studio and introduced the world to JoJo Siwa and Maddie Ziegler. This reboot stars a new group of dancers and their moms, plus coach Glo Hampton. Expect intense rehearsals, competitions, and drama.



Primos

(Disney+)

This new animated series follows 10-year-old Tater, a girl growing up in the suburbs of Los Angeles, California. Her plans for a summer of self-discovery are disrupted when all 12 of her cousins move into her home. Trying to find alone time and have fun isn't easy in the chaos.



Blue Ribbon Baking Championship

(Netflix)

Ten bakers who are state fair competition winners face off in this new series. They reimagine classic fair foods, such as pie, for a judging panel made up of two award-winning bakers and a former White House pastry chef. The goal is to win a \$100,000 prize.



CONSOLE CRAZE

Nintendo's NES came out in 1983, and 61 million of them were eventually sold.

On screen



Nintendo World Championships: NES Edition

A test of video gaming skills

Nintendo World Championships: NES Edition is a new collection of classic video games. It was recently released exclusively for the Nintendo Switch.

The game is based on real tournaments that Nintendo once hosted, where top gamers competed using speedrunning to finish video game levels and tasks as fast as possible. Nintendo World Championships: NES Edition features more than 150 challenges from 13 games that were part of the original NES (Nintendo Entertainment System), including three Super Mario games, two Zelda games, Metroid, Kirby's Adventure, and Donkey Kong. There are also levels from lesser-known classics such as Kid Icarus and Excitebike.

The challenges in the game start out on the easier side, with tasks that include completing the first level of Super Mario

Bros. and sucking up baddies in Kirby. Every time you complete a challenge, you get a letter grade for your performance. A big part of the game is trying again and again to improve your speedrunning times and boost your letter grade, which unlocks new levels and challenges. The harder challenges include big boss battles and transporting between levels.

As in real tournaments, competing against other gamers is a big part of Nintendo World Championships: NES Edition. Up to eight people can race in multiplayer mode—adults who used to play NES games as kids may be eager to show off their skills. Gamers who subscribe to the Nintendo Switch Online network can take part in weekly competitions and race against “ghost” (not live in real time) versions of other online gamers.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

OPAL WATSON: PRIVATE EYE

Apple Podcasts, Spotify

The main character in this fictional series is 11-year-old Opal Watson, a girl with a visual impairment who solves mysteries for family members and people in her apartment building. With each case, Opal gains more confidence and is able to step further out of her comfort zone.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



BROOKS FALLS BROWN BEARS

explore.org/livecams/brown-bears

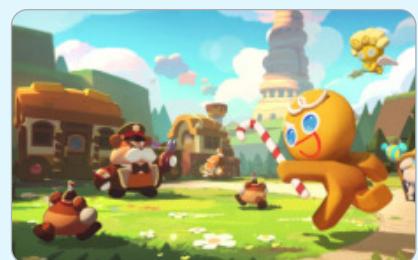
Every summer, brown bears in Alaska's Katmai National Park gather to catch and eat sockeye salmon in the Brooks River as they prepare for their winter hibernation. Eight cameras installed near the river allow viewers to follow their movements and spot other wildlife.

APP OF THE WEEK

COOKIE RUN: TOWER OF ADVENTURES

Apple App Store, Google Play

The latest game in the Cookie Run series is a 3D quest to help GingerBrave and his friends protect the magical Pancake Tower. In one game mode, you can team up with friends as you face fiery enemies, earthquakes, and other challenges.



Book club

BOOK OF THE WEEK

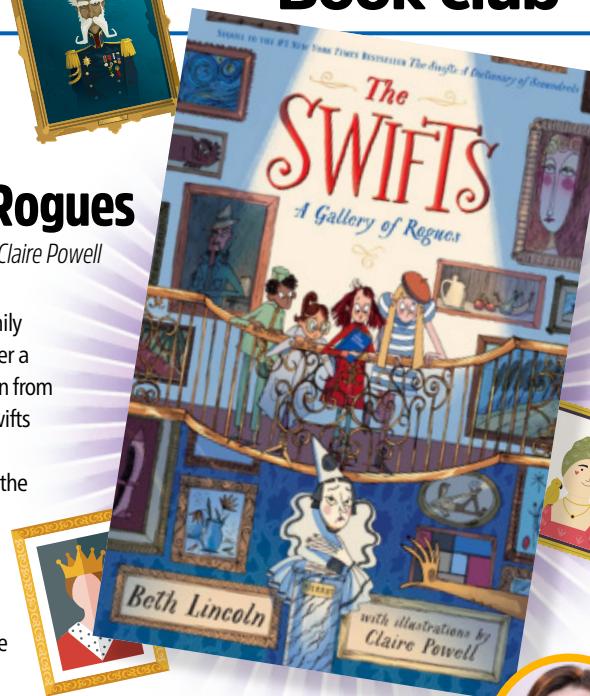
The Swifts: A Gallery of Rogues

By Beth Lincoln, illustrated by Claire Powell

(Dutton Books for Young Readers)

Shenanigan Swift and her family head to Paris, France, to recover a prized painting that was stolen from their home in England. The Swifts think their French cousins, the Martinets, are responsible for the theft because the painting belonged to the Martinets until Swindle Swift cheated them out of it. The Swifts believe the Martinets hired the Ouvolpo, a group known for returning stolen art to its rightful owner, to take the painting.

However, after checking in to the maze-like hotel run by the Martinets, the Swifts aren't sure the Martinets have the painting. They learn that the Ouvolpo is also trying to steal the Martinets' prize statue. Both the statue and the painting were created by the artist Pierrot, who created masterpieces with a clown theme. Pierrot lived in the hotel before the Martinets took it over, and then he vanished and left his artwork behind. The mystery deepens when the hotel's handyman disappears. Can Shenanigan crack the case? Filled with twists, humor, and suspense, this is a remarkable sequel to last year's best-selling *The Swifts: A Dictionary of Scoundrels*. Ages 10 and up



ASK THE AUTHOR

Beth Lincoln

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.



What do you love most about the Swifts?

I love the opportunity to sit down and play with language and think about what words can do.

Do you have siblings?

I have one brother who is much younger than I am. But my dad is one of seven siblings, and growing up we had a lot of family reunions, which is probably where I got the idea for the Swift family.



Which Swift do you relate to the most?

Like Shenanigan, I am the kind of person whose brain gets itchy if I don't have something to occupy myself with.

Favorite hobby?

I love wood carving. I like to make little figurines.

Can we expect another Swift adventure?

Yes, I am currently drafting ideas for the next book!



READER RECOMMENDS

Percy Jackson: The Chalice of the Gods

By Rick Riordan
"This book is so funny! It's the sixth book in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series. Instead of the usual monsters battling each other, Percy just wants to get his college recommendation letters! He must complete quests with his best friends, Grover and Annabeth, for the different gods. I love this story so much, and I love the characters too!" Tricia, 12, California

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



4 activity books that are fun to complete

The puzzles, crafts, and games in these selections span a variety of interests.



Books Make Good Friends Activity Book

By Jane Mount

(Chronicle Books)

If reading is one of your favorite things to do, you'll enjoy the activities in this book. You can draw book covers, write a short story, create your ideal bookshelf, go on a book scavenger hunt, and more. Stickers and bookmarks are included. Ages 8–12



Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Pop Heads 3D Craft

By Jeff Kinney and Igloo Books

(Igloo Books)

This book supplies instructions and materials to make 3D posters of Greg, Rowley, and other characters from the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. It also contains more than a dozen fun games, such as a cheese maze game and spot the difference. Ages 6 and up

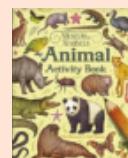


Funtastic

By Amanda Kingloff & the editors of Country Living

(Hearst Home Kids)

With 175 ideas for crafts, games, and other projects, this book is full of creative activities that are fun to do all year long. Find out how to make sun prints, build an outdoor obstacle course, paint a kindness rock, and decorate for the holidays. The colorful photos are very inspiring. Ages 8–12



Museum of Marvels Animal Activity Book

By Polly Cheeseman,

Illustrated by Vlad Stankovic (Arcturus)

In this illustrated book, facts about animals are revealed as you solve puzzles and complete games. The sections about a frog's life cycle and how animals camouflage themselves are especially interesting. A science-themed version will be published in January. Ages 7–11



BACK
TO
SCHOOL
2024

How to...



Get ready for the school year

Follow this step-by-step advice for a smooth start.

As hard as it can be to say goodbye to summer, back to school is also a really fun and exciting time. You get to start new classes, meet new classmates, join sports teams or clubs, and see friends you may not have spent time with while you were on break. The beginning of a new grade also gives you an opportunity for a fresh start. Now is a great time to think about what you can do to help yourself have a successful year. Here are a few ways to get off on the right foot.

Establish a routine

Your summer schedule was probably very different than your school year schedule will be. If you can, start getting into a school routine a few days before you head back to class. This means going to bed early enough to make sure you can get at least eight to nine hours of sleep and waking up early enough to get dressed and eat breakfast before you head out the door. Get into the habit of making a checklist of what you need to remember each day (see the ideas at right).



Pack up the night before.

Savor summer moments

Fall doesn't officially begin until September 22, so you can still squeeze in more summer fun. Talk to your family about activities you'd like to do one more time. This could be a trip to the local pool, going out for ice cream, or having a sleepover.

Set up the night before

To make your mornings go smoothly, think about selecting an outfit and packing your lunch before you go to bed. You can also plan a time to get homework

done each day. Some kids like to complete theirs immediately after school, while others might find that evenings work better. Talk to an adult about what time would be best for you.

Create your workspace

In addition to making sure you have enough time for homework, having a dedicated place to do it can also help you be productive. With an adult's help, pick a quiet place, maybe in your room or in a shared family room, with a desk or table and a comfortable chair. Hang a calendar nearby so you can keep track of important dates like tests and project deadlines. Keep a drawer or basket full of supplies you need, such as pens, pencils, and a calculator. (You can personalize a pencil cup holder with the craft on the opposite page!) An adjustable desk lamp can also help with reading and writing.

3 checklist options



Paper notepad Research shows that writing things down—rather than typing them—can help people remember information better. You can use anything from a plain notepad to a decorative paper planner to make a list of what you need to do for the day.

Notes app If you use a device, a note-taking app is a convenient way to always have your list handy. You can delete items or mark them complete with a check mark emoji.

Whiteboard You can hang a small whiteboard on your refrigerator and write down everything you're supposed to bring to school, like your lunch, water bottle, and keys.



DID YOU KNOW?

A single pencil can be used to write up to 45,000 words.



Make pencil cups from recycled cans

What you'll need

- Recycled cans, cleaned out
- Scrap corrugated cardboard, such as from a shipping box
- Scissors
- Glue (ideally hot glue for a stronger bond, or white glue)
- Primer to create brighter colors (optional)
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic craft paint

Instructions

1. To make an animal head, cut a thin semi-circle from the cardboard. To cut the corrugated cardboard and make it easier to bend, cut the strips so the lines inside the cardboard go up and down, not side to side. Cut as many heads as the number of cans you have.
2. With an adult's supervision, glue the heads onto the top of the cans. Allow the glue to set or dry.
3. Optional: Prime cans (and the cardboard head top) to cover any printing on the cardboard and to achieve a brighter color.
4. Cut out cardboard ears, snouts, and arms. Glue the shapes to the cans and allow the glue to set or dry.
5. Paint the animals however you like. You can paint the main color first, allow it to dry, and then add details like lighter spots, eyes, markings, and noses.

TIP Save different-size cans to organize all your desk items: taller cans for markers, pens, and pencils and shorter cans for crayons or scissors.



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

HEAD TO SCHOOL ON FOOT

If you live close enough to your school, it's a great idea to walk or ride your bike whenever you can. This is not only fun and good exercise, but it also helps cut down on pollution from cars in your neighborhood. You can even talk to your family about starting what's called a "walking bus" for your block, which is a clever way of saying a group of kids meet up near their homes to walk to school together. Just be sure to always be safe while walking or biking. Stay on the sidewalk when walking, walk or ride in the same direction as traffic, cross at designated spots with crossing guards, and wear a helmet if biking.



Walk to school
with others.



Crisscross

3 letters
ART**7 letters**
ENGLISH

PHYSICS

SPANISH

5 letters
DRAMA

MUSIC

6 letters

CIVICS

FRENCH

HEALTH

9 letters

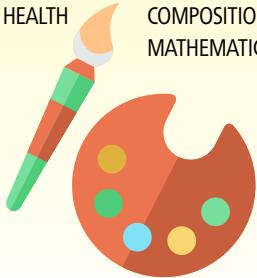
ASTRONOMY

GEOGRAPHY

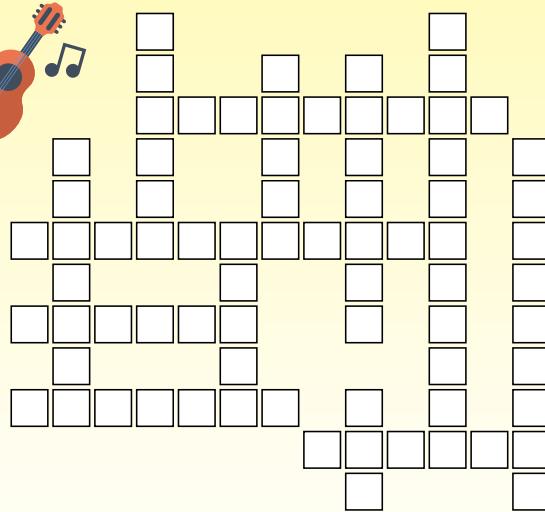
11 letters

COMPOSITION

MATHEMATICS



Each of these school subjects fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?



ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters B-U-S. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words?

1. Capital of Ohio

 B U S**ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND
ON
PAGE 29.**

2. A company or store

B U S

3. Movie that's a huge hit

 B U S

4. Unit of measurement for grain

B U S

5. Harry Potter's ___ 2000 racing broomstick, named after a storm cloud

 B U S

Spot the difference

These two pictures of school lunchtime appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?



That's unbelievable!



Just plane
impressive



Handy talent sets a record

Matteo Pavone of Italy, who calls himself "The Handstand Vehicle," has earned a world record for an upside-down feat of strength. The former rugby player pulled three airplanes—weighing more than 3,400 pounds in total—about 16 feet while walking on his hands across concrete. Pavone said he was proud of the record but plans to try again with four aircraft. "Everything can be achieved with hard work, determination, and the support of your family and friends," he said.

The sweet
celebration



Time for lime in Florida Keys

Each summer, key lime pie devotees gather in Key West, Florida, for a festival celebrating their favorite dessert. This year, Hector Rodriguez, age 19, won the pie-eating contest, devouring a 9-inch pie in 1 minute, 58 seconds. For another event, people created contraptions to drop pies from an 88-foot-tall lighthouse without damaging them. The winner was 4-year-old Abel Berlanga, who protected the pie with a laundry basket, water balloons, and a toy lawn mower.

No bones
about it?



Chicken wings go to court

An Ohio man had a bone to pick after a restaurant meal sent him to the hospital. Soon after eating some "boneless chicken wings," Michael Berkheimer began feeling ill. A chicken bone had gotten stuck in his throat and caused an infection. Berkheimer sued the restaurant for failing to warn him about bones in the meat. In a 4–3 decision, Ohio's Supreme Court ruled that "boneless wings" are simply a cooking style, so they can include bones. One judge who disagreed said that "all sensible people" who see the word "boneless" think it means "without bones."

Real OR
fake?



Was she
traveling
too fast?

Taking a suitcase for a spin

A woman in Japan was charged by police for driving her electric suitcase without a license. Electric suitcases have three wheels and a handlebar and can go up to eight miles per hour. They are designed for use in airports but have also been ridden outside. The woman, a student from China, was accused of driving her motorized luggage on a public sidewalk in the city of Osaka and had to pay a fine for her misdeed. Is this a true story, or are we taking you for a ride?*

Woman reportedly told police that she "did not think a driver's license was required."

a license to drive. The country is trying to limit collisions and other disruptions. The
*Really Japanese law classifies electric suitcases as "motorized vehicles," which require



Your turn



Editor's note

We showcase a big beginning and an exciting ending in this issue of *The Week Junior*. With a special edition of our How To section, we're wishing you a great start to the new school year (p24).

Whether you've already gone back or are preparing to return, we hope this will be your best year yet! Just as school is starting, the Summer Olympics have ended. We have a story about the closing ceremony in Paris, France (p3), a profile of a Team USA athlete (p9), a special section of Olympic Photos of the Week (p16), a two-page Sports spread of competition highlights (p18), and a selection of amazing photos (shown at right) that you sent us after making the Olympic recipes and crafts from Issue 223. We are so impressed with your creativity and enthusiasm! In our next issue, look for a preview of another big athletic competition taking place in Paris: the Paralympic Games, which begin on August 28.

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Leveling the Playing Field

This organization works to ensure that all kids have a chance to play a sport. It collects gently used and new equipment for soccer, basketball, and other sports and distributes the items to schools and youth athletic organizations. Since its founding in 2013, it has provided \$14 million worth of equipment to young people in the US and around the world. Find out more at levelingtheplayingfield.org.



**THE WEEK
Junior**

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your fantastic Olympic celebrations!

Thank you to everyone who sent us photos of the Olympic-themed recipes and crafts they made from Issue 223 of *The Week Junior*! A selection of submissions is shown here. If you're preparing to watch the Paralympics, which start on August 28, we'd love to hear about it. Have an adult email your photos and stories to hello@theweekjunior.com.



Your turn



Puzzle answers (from page 26)



Take five

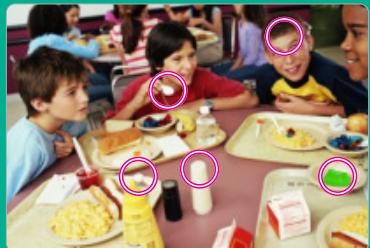
learn
globe
study
lunch
books

All the same

1. Columbus
2. business
3. blockbuster
4. bushel
5. Nimbus

H	E	D	E	O	C
S	A	G	P	G	
L	T	M	L	O	E
P	H	A	T	I	
T	E	S	I	G	
M	A	T	H	T	R
A	T	H	E	I	A
T	H	E	M	P	
M	A	E	A	O	
A	T	E	F	R	
T	H	E	E	N	
M	A	E	N	C	
A	T	E	C	H	
T	H	E	H	I	
M	A	E	E	Y	

4	2	1	3	5	6
3	5	6	2	1	4
1	4	5	6	3	2
2	6	3	1	4	5
6	1	4	5	2	3
5	3	2	4	6	1



Quiz answers (from page 30)

1c) US **2** False. A painting was stolen. **3** c) Toyota Prius **4** North Carolina **5** a) DinDim
6 True **7** Speedrunning **8** False. The shelters help the frogs warm up. **9** b) Pommel horse
10 True **11** c) 1800 **12** Insulin **13** a) Great white shark **14** True **15** Key lime pie

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Which country won the most medals overall at this year's Olympics?

a) China b) France c) US

a b c

2 True or false? In the book *The Swifts: A Gallery of Rogues*, a statue was stolen from the Swift family home.

True False

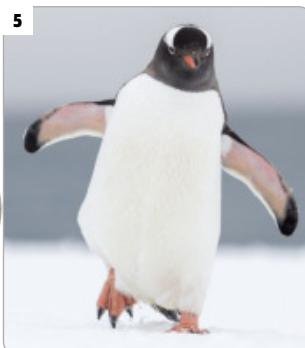
3 What was the world's first mass-produced hybrid-electric car?

a) Chevy Volt b) Nissan Leaf

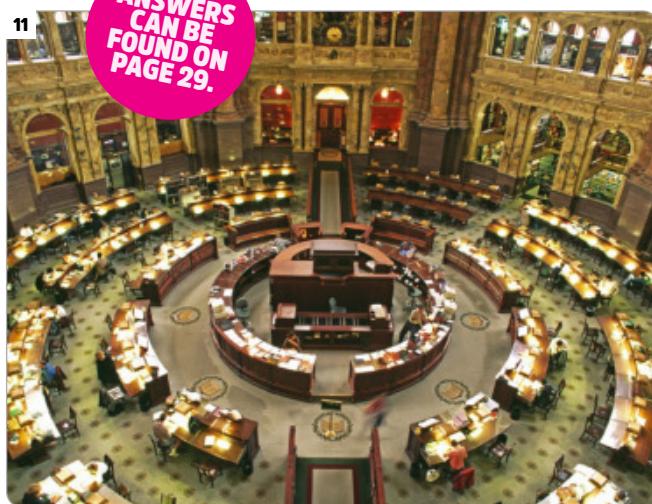
c) Toyota Prius

a b c

4 A team from which US state won this year's Little League Softball World Series?



ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.



5 What is the nickname of the penguin who helped inspire the film *My Penguin Friend*?

a) DinDim b) PinPim c) YanYam

a b c

6 True or false? Yun Chuan and Xin Bao are the first giant pandas to arrive in the US in more than 20 years.

True False

7 What is the term for trying to complete a video game level or task as fast as possible?



8 True or false? Australian researchers designed shelters that help sick frogs cool down.

True False

9 Stephen Nedoroscik has become known for his Olympic performance in what gymnastics event?

a) Floor exercise
b) Pommel horse
c) Vault

a b c

10 True or false? Hippos can briefly become airborne when they run.

True False

11 In what year was the Library of Congress founded?

a) 1776 b) 1789 c) 1800

a b c

12 What is the chemical produced by beta cells that helps regulate sugar in the blood?

13 Ptychodus sharks were recently found to be related to what type of modern-day shark?

a) Great white shark b) Tiger shark
c) Hammerhead shark

a b c

14 True or false? The US women's basketball team has won eight straight Olympic gold medals.

True False

15 What kind of pie was dropped from a lighthouse during a festival in Key West, Florida?

THE WEEK Junior

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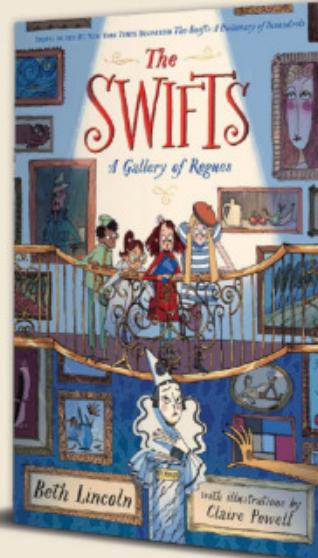


The Swifts are going to Paris!

Say *bonjour* to more **secrets**, more **adventure**, and even more **shenanigans**!

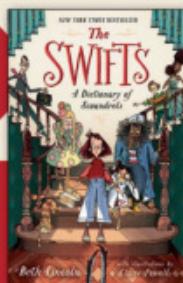
Read if you like:

- Mystery
- Mischief
- Misadventure



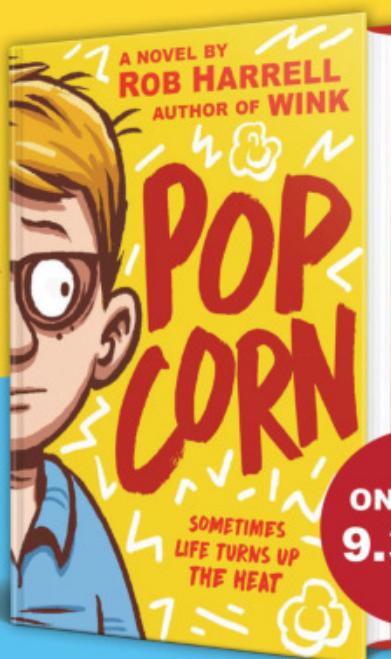
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Don't miss the Swifts' first adventure, *The Swifts: A Dictionary of Scoundrels*, a #1 New York Times bestseller!

SOMETIMES LIFE TURNS UP THE HEAT



Art © 2024 by Rob Harrell

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ON SALE
9.3.24

